



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

[From November 11, 1895, to May 10, 1896.]

I. THE UNITED STATES.

FOREIGN RELATIONS. — Incidents under this head have occupied a very conspicuous position in our political life during the period under review. First in importance has been the controversy with Great Britain over the **Venezuelan boundary question**. In his Annual Message at the opening of Congress, December 3, President Cleveland announced that Great Britain had been called upon for a definite answer to the question whether she would or would not submit the entire boundary dispute with Venezuela to arbitration, and that an answer was expected shortly. The answer reached Washington three days later, when the president was absent on a hunting trip. On December 17 Mr. Cleveland, having returned, sent to Congress the correspondence, accompanied by a message. The correspondence consisted of a long dispatch from Secretary Olney, dated July 20, 1895, and two notes in reply from Lord Salisbury, both dated November 26. Mr. Olney's dispatch first reviewed the history of the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela, and the efforts of the United States to bring about an equitable settlement. In this review he put especial emphasis on the inability of Venezuela to establish her claim through any but peaceful methods; her persistent but unsuccessful efforts to reach a settlement, first by convention and then by arbitration; Great Britain's refusal to arbitrate except on condition that Venezuela first relinquish all claim to that part of the disputed territory lying east of the arbitrary Schomburgk line; and the fact that the honor and interests of the United States were involved in the controversy, so far as British aggression upon Venezuelan territory was alleged. The dispatch then proceeded to set forth at length the right of the United States to interpose, first, on the general principles of international law, and second, on the special principle of the Monroe Doctrine. The interest of the United States in excluding the European powers from forcibly intruding in American politics was asserted in vigorous terms, and it was declared that the acquisition of Venezuelan territory by Great Britain, under cover of a boundary dispute, would be such an intrusion. The United States, therefore, was entitled to know whether the charges of aggression brought by Venezuela against Great Britain were well founded; and peaceful arbitration of the territorial dispute was the only way in which this question could be properly determined. That Great Britain insisted on excluding from arbitration part of the territory claimed by Venezuela, might cover an aggression by the former

government as to that part. The United States was justified, therefore, in protesting against Great Britain's attitude, and in demanding a definite answer to the question whether she would submit the whole territorial dispute to arbitration. Of Lord Salisbury's two notes in reply, the first dealt only with the principles on which Mr. Olney claimed for the United States the right to interfere in the Venezuelan matter. Lord Salisbury argued that the Monroe Doctrine had no bearing on the Venezuelan question; that even if it were distorted by the United States to apply to that question, no other power was bound to consider it, as it formed no part of international law; that the government of the United States, while entirely justified in interposing in any controversy where its interests were affected, was not "entitled to affirm . . . with reference to a number of independent states for whose conduct it assumes no responsibility, that its interests are necessarily concerned in whatever may befall those states simply because they are situated in the western hemisphere." And the note concluded with an emphatic denial of Mr. Olney's assertion that a "permanent political union between a European and an American state [is] unnatural and inexpedient." In his second note Lord Salisbury recited the history of the territorial controversy from the British point of view, representing that the failure to agree upon a line by convention had been chiefly due to Venezuela's excessive and baseless claims, and to the lack of a stable government with which to carry on negotiations; and that the Schomburgk line, originating in considerations of convenience and expediency, had been declared in 1886 the "irreducible boundary" of British Guiana only because Venezuela insisted that arbitration should be applied to a great tract that had long been settled by British subjects. While regretting that Venezuela should have severed diplomatic relations, and repudiating any design to seize her territory or "forcibly to extend sovereignty over any portion of her population," Lord Salisbury declared that Great Britain could not submit to arbitration claims "involving the transfer of large numbers of British subjects . . . to a nation of different race and language, whose political system is subject to frequent disturbance, and whose institutions as yet too often afford very inadequate protection to life and property." He was ready still to submit to arbitration the territory beyond the Schomburgk line. President Cleveland's message to Congress briefly reasserted the arguments for the right to intervene in the matter, and expressed disappointment and regret that the British government refused to accept the proposition for impartial arbitration. Under the circumstances, he said, the situation must be dealt with as it stood. Venezuela might settle the boundary with Great Britain by any means she deemed best; but in the absence of some settlement the United States must determine for its own justification what was the true divisional line in the disputed territory. He recommended, therefore, that Congress appropriate money for a commission, to be appointed by the executive, who should carefully and judicially investigate the facts of the case, and report as soon as practicable. And the

message continued : " When such report is made and accepted, it will, in my opinion, be the duty of the United States to resist by every means in its power, as a wilful aggression upon its rights and interests, the appropriation by Great Britain of any lands or the exercise of governmental jurisdiction over any territory which, after investigation, we have determined of right belong to Venezuela. In making these recommendations I am fully alive to the responsibility incurred, and keenly realize all the consequences that may follow." The belligerent tone of the message in this concluding passage caused great surprise and much excitement both in the United States and in Great Britain. Congress responded very promptly to the president's recommendation. A bill appropriating \$100,000 for the expenses of a commission was passed by the House of Representatives unanimously and without debate December 18, and by the Senate, also unanimously, but with a brief discussion, on the 20th. On the first of January the president announced the five members of the commission as follows : David J. Brewer, of Kansas, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States ; Richard H. Alvey, of Maryland, chief justice of the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia ; Andrew D. White, of Ithaca, N.Y. ; Frederic R. Coudert, of New York City ; and Daniel C. Gilman, of Maryland, president of the Johns Hopkins University. The commission met on the 4th and organized with Justice Brewer as president. It has since been constantly at work upon its task of ascertaining " the true divisional line " between Venezuela and British Guiana. On the 15th of January the commission, through Justice Brewer, addressed a note to Secretary Olney setting forth the peaceful and non-international character of the body, and the desirability of securing the coöperation of Great Britain and Venezuela, as *amici curiae*, in the procuring of evidence bearing on their respective claims. Both governments complied with the suggestion, as conveyed to them by the Department of State, and each furnished to our government in March an elaborate statement of its case. The consent of Venezuela had been expected, but there had been doubt as to whether any assistance whatever would be accorded by Great Britain to the commission in its deliberations. At the end of this RECORD the work of the commission was proceeding slowly, but with an appearance of exceeding thoroughness. Meanwhile it was announced in Parliament on March 16 that the United States had opened further negotiations with Great Britain on the Venezuelan difficulty, and later the official statement was made that a proposition for a general treaty for the arbitration of disputes was also under consideration. — Incidentally to the excitement following the president's message of December 17, a large number of state governors and legislatures put themselves on record as approving the Monroe Doctrine and its interpretation by the administration. Later in the winter a strong demand for a general arbitration agreement between Great Britain and the United States was agitated by influential men in both countries. A large convention to this end was held in London

March 3, and another in Washington April 22, to both of which letters from leading members of the respective governments were sent expressing sympathy with the purpose of the meetings. — The enforcement of the neutrality laws in connection with the **Cuban insurrection** has furnished uninterrupted occupation to our revenue officials. In accordance with a judicial decision the secretary of the treasury on March 19 advised his subordinates that not arms alone, but arms and men together, must be found on board in order to give ground for seizing a vessel. After the attacks on American consulates by rioters at Barcelona and elsewhere, when the news of Congress's threatened intervention in Cuba reached Spain (see below, p. 392), the Spanish government very promptly expressed regret, and promised suitable reparation. Upon the summary sentence to death, May 9, of two American citizens captured on the schooner *Competitor*, which was conveying arms to the Cubans, our government at once demanded a suspension of execution, on the ground that under treaties the prisoners were entitled to a civil trial. The suspension was granted, pending discussion as to the construction of the treaties. — In the **Bering Sea question**, a treaty for the settlement by a joint commission of the claims of Canadian sealers against the United States was negotiated in November, and ratified by the Senate April 15. The regulations established by the Paris Tribunal have proved so inadequate for preventing the slaughter of the seals that, in the opinion of the secretary of the treasury, Congress ought, unless some improvement be made, to authorize by law the killing of all the seals at the Privylov Islands, and thus terminate the whole sealing industry by the extinction of the herds. Projects to this end were considered by the Senate committee on foreign relations in February. — The Department of State, and particularly the minister of the United States at Constantinople, have been under great pressure to insure protection to missionaries and other American citizens in Asia Minor during the massacres of the Armenians. No deaths of American citizens have been reported, but considerable property belonging to missionaries was destroyed by the mob at Harput, and claims for indemnity have been made and pressed.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION. — By proclamation dated January 4, 1896, President Cleveland declared that Utah had complied with all the conditions necessary to constitute her a state of the Union. Among the conditions prescribed and duly recited in the proclamation was the enactment by the convention of an ordinance, irrevocable without the consent of the United States, providing for full religious toleration and prohibiting plural marriages. — The secretary of the treasury, on January 17, confirmed the action of Comptroller Bowler in reference to the sugar-bounties (see last RECORD, p. 737), and finally referred the matter to the court of claims. But by another procedure the claimants succeeded in getting the case directly before the supreme court, where it was argued in the third week in April. — The movement for **civil-service reform**, which has been

in progress for thirty years, practically attained its goal in May. After minor extensions of the classified service in March and April, President Cleveland issued, on May 6, the decisive order which brought into that service the 30,000 places to which the law might be, but had not yet been, applied. By this order, which went into effect at once, the method of appointment by competitive examination became applicable to substantially all employees in the government service between the grade of laborer at one extreme, and that of officers who under the Constitution must be confirmed by the Senate, at the other. The number of positions on the classified lists became 85,135, and the number of exceptions to the rule of appointment by examination was reduced to 775. Non-competitive examination was abolished except in a very limited number of cases. The new rules divide the executive civil service into five branches: The departmental service, the custom-house service, the post-office service, the government-printing service, and the internal-revenue service. In the departmental service are classified the officers and employees in the several executive departments, the commissions, the District of Columbia, the railway mail service, Indian service, pension agencies, steamboat inspection service, marine hospital service, lighthouse service, mints and assay offices, revenue cutter service, sub-treasuries and engineer departments, and the forces employed by custodians of public buildings. The only exception made in the Treasury Department is in favor of those in the life-saving service. In the custom-house service are classified all officers and employees in any customs district whose employees number as many as five. In the post-office service are classified all officers and employees in any free-delivery post-office. In the internal-revenue service are classified all officers and employees in every internal-revenue district, except, of course, mere laborers. In the Post-Office Department an obstacle to the extension of the reform through the consolidation of fourth-class offices with free-delivery offices (see last RECORD, p. 739) was found to exist in the form of the appropriations for the lesser offices. Postmaster-General Wilson strongly urged a change in the appropriation bill that should render the reform possible, but his suggestion was rejected by Congress, mainly on political grounds. The order of last September in reference to the method of appointment of consuls and commercial agents has been administered in such a manner as to win the commendation of the advocates of civil-service reform. From the promulgation of the order to the middle of March four places were filled by promotion, four by reinstatement after previous service, and four by candidates after an examination.—Gen. Theodore Runyon, Ambassador to Germany, died suddenly at Berlin, January 27. His place was filled by the appointment, February 10, of E. T. Uhl, of Michigan, the first assistant secretary of state.

THE FINANCES AND THE CURRENCY.—Heavy withdrawals of gold from the treasury in November indicated a return of the now familiar process through which the government is forced to take measures for the

protection of the gold element in the currency. President Cleveland's Annual Message of December 3 embodied a lengthy discussion of the currency question. After reviewing the history of our currency for the last twenty years and defending the bond-syndicate contract of February, 1895, (see this RECORD for June, 1895, p. 366), he showed that the good effect of that operation had recently ceased and that the gold reserve now stood at \$79,333,966, with a prospect of further decrease in the near future. He then declared his conviction that the only thorough remedy for the trouble lay in the retirement of the greenbacks and the treasury notes of 1890, by the issue of low-rate and long-term bonds. To offset the contraction thus produced in the currency, the national banks should be authorized to issue notes up to the par value of the bonds deposited as security, and possibly the treasury might be authorized to coin and slowly put into circulation the silver bullion left free by the retirement of the treasury notes of 1890. Mr. Cleveland then addressed himself to the contention that it was the deficit in the revenue, rather than the currency situation pure and simple, that was responsible for the recent repeated bond issues. This assertion he denied, showing that the receipts of the treasury were exclusively in silver certificates and notes or in greenbacks, while gold was the form of currency that was needed, and that any attempt to retain greenbacks while paying out silver and silver certificates would contravene the express mandate of the law requiring reissue; would discriminate in favor of silver and thus militate against the credit of the government; and would lead to all the evils heretofore experienced from the accumulation of a surplus in the treasury. He pointed out that at the time of each bond issue there had been in the treasury a safe surplus for ordinary operations, exclusive of the gold reserve, and declared that at no time had there been any consideration of paying the expenses of the government from the proceeds of bonds. His message concluded with a temperate argument against the free-coinage idea, and a plea for a single gold standard of value, with a silver element in the currency based upon this. Secretary Carlisle's report, presented to the House of Representatives December 16, embodied, in more extended form, the same arguments as the president's message. The estimates for the current fiscal year looked to a deficit of \$17,000,000. The fact that the deficit of \$42,805,223 for the year 1895 was double what had been estimated, was attributed by Mr. Carlisle to the supreme court's decision against the income tax. For 1897, on the basis of present laws, the secretary estimated that the deficit would disappear. On the first of December, he reported, there was a cash balance in the treasury of \$98,072,420, exclusive of the gold reserve. — The difficulty which had been anticipated in keeping gold in the treasury became acute as a result of the president's Venezuelan message of December 17. The "war scare" which was caused by that document was attended by a panic on the London Exchange, which communicated itself to the Continental exchanges and produced at once serious consequences in New York. Prices fell

heavily, some failures were reported, and the withdrawal of gold from the treasury assumed great proportions. On the 20th the reserve had gone down to \$69,650,000, ten millions less than three weeks earlier, with further large reductions obviously near at hand. The president accordingly on that day sent to Congress a special message, stating the situation, alluding to the effect of his recently announced foreign policy, and declaring that the result conveyed a "warning that even the patriotic sentiment of our people is not an adequate substitute for a sound financial policy." He asked Congress to postpone its holiday recess until something had been done to reassure the apprehensive among the people, but declared that in any case he should use every means in the power of the executive to maintain the country's credit. The suggestion was acted upon, and on the 26th the House of Representatives took up two bills dealing respectively with the tariff and the currency. The fate of these bills is narrated elsewhere (see next page *et seq.*). A new bond issue had been regarded from the outset as inevitable, and there was much discussion in the press as to whether the administration would contract privately with a syndicate or open a public subscription. On January 6 a call was issued for bids for \$100,000,000 coin four-per-cents, running thirty years. In a private letter under date of the 5th, made public on the 9th, the president denied in strong terms the newspaper allegations that his original purpose had been to dispose of the bonds privately to a syndicate of New York bankers, and this denial was confirmed by a statement of J. Pierpont Morgan, January 14, in which he said that he had organized a syndicate to take bonds if they should be issued, but not through any understanding with the administration. The bids for the issue announced were opened February 5. They numbered 4640 and amounted to \$684,262,850. Awards were made to 781 bidders, of whom the Morgan syndicate received \$33,179,250 at 110.6877, together with certain amounts awarded to bidders who failed to fulfill the conditions of the contract. The total gold received by the treasury was about \$111,000,000, and the average rate of interest realized by subscribers was about $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. In the absence of such guarantees as were contained in the syndicate contract of a year previous, it was impossible to make certain that the gold to pay for the bonds should not be taken out of the treasury. There were abundant indications that many of the bidders procured their gold in this way. Gold and legal-tenders were at a premium in Wall Street during the period in which the various installments of the bids fell due, and despite the vigilance of the treasury officials, at least one instance came to light in which a purchaser, through a broker, drew gold for notes and paid it in for bonds without removing the metal from the sub-treasury. During January and February withdrawals were very heavy, and the reserve reached as low a point as \$45,000,000 before the counter-acting influence of the bond proceeds began to be felt. By February 20 the reserve had passed the hundred-million point. At the close of this RECORD it was about \$117,000,000, with heavy exports pending.

CONGRESS.—The first session of the Fifty-fourth Congress opened December 2. In the House of Representatives the **organization** was effected through the election of Mr. Reed, of Maine, as speaker, and the minor officers who had been agreed upon by the Republican caucus. The membership of the House at the opening of the session embraced 244 Republicans and 105 Democrats. Speaker Reed announced the committees on December 21. Of the most important committees the chairmen were as follows: Ways and Means, Dingley, of Maine; Appropriations, Cannon, of Illinois; Foreign Affairs, Hitt, of Illinois; Banking and Currency, Walker, of Massachusetts; Judiciary, Henderson, of Iowa; Commerce, Hepburn, of Iowa. In the rules of the House, as finally completed January 23, the much debated question of quorum-counting was settled by a provision that in case a quorum fails to vote the sergeant-at-arms shall bring absentees before the House, the clerk shall note them as present, and they shall be considered, even though they decline to vote, as constituting part of a quorum for the purposes of the pending question. In the Senate a reorganization of the committees was effected December 30 by the Republicans. The parties were represented in this body as follows: Republicans, 42; Democrats, 39; Populists, 6. The Populists refrained from voting on the reorganization, it being understood that they had been placated by the composition of the finance committee, which had a majority in favor of free coinage of silver. The chairmen of the more important committees, as reorganized, were as follows: Appropriations, Allison, of Iowa; Finance, Morrill, of Vermont; Foreign Relations, Sherman, of Ohio; Interstate Commerce, Cullom, of Illinois; Judiciary, Hoar, of Massachusetts. On the 7th of February Frye, of Maine, was elected president *pro tem.* of the Senate, in the place of Harris, of Tennessee.—**President Cleveland's Annual Message** was presented to the houses December 3. It was confined to two topics, foreign affairs and finance, giving about equal space to each. The financial part is summarized elsewhere (see p. 370). As to foreign relations, the message contained little of striking importance. The successful result of the efforts to get satisfaction for the outrages on missionaries in China was set forth; German state discriminations against American food products and American insurance companies were complained of, and the possibility of retaliatory measures suggested; the inadequacy of the regulations under the Bering Sea arbitration to insure the preservation of the seal herds was dwelt upon, and action looking to the settlement of Canadian claims against the United States that were validated by the Paris Tribunal was urgently recommended. As to other British relations, as well as those affecting our intercourse with Spain, the message contained little beyond what may be found elsewhere in this RECORD.—The prompt action of Congress in reference to the president's recommendation of a Venezuelan Boundary Commission has been described above (p. 367). The special message of December 20 (p. 371) prompted some **attempts at financial legislation**. On December 26 two bills were introduced in the

House of Representatives by Chairman Dingley of the ways and means committee. Adopting the view maintained by the Republicans, that the chief cause of the difficulty in maintaining the gold reserve was the deficiency in the revenue, he proposed first a bill "to temporarily increase the revenues." This provided that until August 1, 1898, the customs duties on most varieties of wool and woollen goods and on lumber, should stand at sixty per cent of those imposed by the McKinley Act of 1890, and that the duties in all the other schedules of the tariff, except sugar, should, with slight exceptions, be increased by fifteen per cent over those of the existing law. This bill passed the House on the 27th by a party vote of 205 to 81. On the following day the second bill, "to maintain and protect the coin redemption fund," was passed by 170 to 136, — 47 Republicans in the minority. This bill authorized the secretary of the treasury to procure coin for redeeming legal-tenders by the sale of three-per-cent five-year bonds, and to provide for temporary deficiencies by the issue of three-year three-per-cent certificates of indebtedness in small denominations. The administration was as little satisfied with this bill as with that changing the tariff, and proceeded with the bond issue, as narrated above (p. 371). The failure of the bills in the Senate was foreseen, but the precise form in which it was manifested excited some surprise. On February 1 the bond bill was transformed by the adoption of a substitute providing for the free coinage of silver, and this was passed by a vote of 42 to 35. On the 14th the House refused, by 215 to 90, to concur in the Senate's amendment, and the whole subject was dropped. Meanwhile the Senate finance committee had reported a free-coinage substitute for the House tariff bill also. But after this further exhibition of their strength the silver senators refused to go further, and on February 25 joined with the Democrats in rejecting, by 33 to 22, a motion to take up the bill for consideration. This vote was recognized as finally disposing of the measure. — The impulse given to the so-called Jingo sentiment by Mr. Cleveland's Venezuelan boundary message led to protracted debates in both houses on various phases of **foreign policy**, though little definite action resulted. Many resolutions were introduced aiming to give legislative sanction to the Monroe Doctrine, but none came to a vote. The Senate committee on foreign relations reported favorably, on January 20, a concurrent resolution offered by Senator Davis, of Minnesota, reaffirming the principles of President Monroe's message of December 2, 1823, and declaring that the United States would regard as unfriendly to itself any "attempt by any European power to take or acquire any new territory on the American continents, or any islands adjacent thereto, or any right of sovereignty or dominion in the same, in any case or instance as to which the United States shall deem such attempt to be dangerous to its peace or safety, by or through force, purchase, cession, occupation, pledge, colonization, protectorate, or by control of the easement in canal or any other means of transit across the American isthmus." This resolution, while expressing very faithfully the extreme Jingo view as to what should be the attitude of

the United States, was not pressed to a vote. Upon the subject of the outrages in Armenia positive action was taken by the adoption of a concurrent resolution by both houses, with slight opposition, January 27. The resolution recited certain provisions of the Treaty of Berlin of 1878, the object of which was alleged to be "to place the Christian subjects of the Porte under the protection of the other signatories" to the treaty; referred to the horrors of the late massacres; expressed an "earnest hope" that the European concert might result in decisive measures to secure to unoffending Christians their rights; requested the president to communicate the resolutions to the governments of the signatory Christian powers; and finally declared that the houses would support the president in the most vigorous action for the protection of American citizens in Turkey. The progress of the insurrection in Cuba brought to the front in both houses of Congress a strong sentiment in favor of recognizing the insurgents as belligerents, even at the risk of a war with Spain. It was known, however, that the administration was adverse to such recognition; and as there was a feeling that the president's hand should not be forced in the practical conduct of our relations with Spain, the action taken by the houses was cast in the form of concurrent resolutions, which do not require the president's signature and have not the force of law. On February 28 the Senate passed, by 64 to 6, resolutions declaring that the United States should accord belligerent rights to the Cuban government, and that the president should offer friendly offices to the Spanish government for the recognition of the independence of Cuba. The House of Representatives, on March 2, adopted, by 263 to 17, resolutions of substantially the same purport, but with an additional declaration that, in view of the losses entailed upon the people of the United States by the existing war, "the government of the United States should be prepared to protect the legitimate interests of our citizens by intervention, if necessary." A conference committee appointed to adjust the difference between the two houses reported at first in favor of the House form. Strong opposition to this report developed, however, in the Senate, and ultimately a new conference was ordered, which reported, March 26, in favor of the less extreme Senate resolutions. On the 6th of April the House adopted the report by 245 to 27. — **The appropriation bills** were pressed ahead with unusual rapidity, five of them having become laws by the middle of March. This was in accordance with the announced policy of Speaker Reed and the other Republican leaders to have a short and economical session. In the Agricultural Appropriation Bill Congress once more took up the struggle with Secretary Morton over the free distribution of seeds (see last RECORD, p. 738); after appropriating \$163,400 for the purchase of seeds, a joint resolution was passed making it mandatory upon the secretary to purchase and distribute them. The president let both the bill and resolution become law without his signature. The last of the general appropriation bills was brought before the House April 18. The grand total of the ap-

appropriations proposed in these bills, together with the permanent appropriations, was \$505,019,410.88, which was changed only slightly by the amendments of the Senate.— Outside of the regular appropriations little **general legislation** was completed. In the midst of the "war scare" produced by Mr. Cleveland's Venezuelan boundary message, the Senate unanimously passed a bill repealing the prohibition of former Confederates from holding commissions in the army; and this was adopted by the House also, March 24, with but one dissenting vote. Prize-fighting in the Territories and in the District of Columbia was prohibited by act approved February 7 (*cf.* last RECORD, p. 742).— On the 20th of March the House passed, by 180 to 71, a resolution censuring Ambassador Bayard for certain expressions in public speeches which he had made in England. One of the passages censured referred to the people of the United States as "a strong, self-confident, and oftentimes violent people," who needed a strong man to govern them; and the other stated in severe terms the evils of a protective tariff, as illustrated in the United States. The matter had been brought before the House in December on a motion to impeach Mr. Bayard, but the milder form of action was recommended by the committee on foreign affairs.

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.— The supreme court has decided the following important cases: November 18, *United States vs. The Union Pacific Railway and the Western Union Telegraph Company*: Held, that under the acts of Congress relative to the bond-aided Pacific railroads, no railroad company operating one of the post-roads of the United States over which interstate commerce is carried on can grant to any one or more telegraph companies the exclusive right to use its roadway for telegraphic purposes. November 25, *Mills vs. Green*, involving the validity of the elections for the constitutional convention of South Carolina: Suit dismissed, on the ground that, since the convention had been for some time in session, it would be impossible to grant the relief sought. January 27, *United States vs. Electric Railway*: Held, that the purpose of preserving and marking, on the site of the battle of Gettysburg, the positions of the troops at the battle, is a public use or purpose, for which Congress may authorize condemnation of the necessary land. March 23, *Brown vs. Walker*: Held, that the act of 1893, compelling witnesses in interstate-commerce cases to answer even when they declare that they will incriminate themselves (see last RECORD, p. 741), is constitutional. March 30, several Interstate Commerce Cases: Held, that shipments on a through bill of lading between points in different states are subject to the operation of the Interstate Commerce Act, and that this applies to any road making up part of the through route, even though the road lies wholly in a single state; and held, that an order of the Interstate Commerce Commission requiring a company to charge the same rate from New Orleans to San Francisco on freight arriving from a foreign country as on freight originating at New Orleans, was unwarranted and void. April 13, *Woodruff vs.*

Mississippi: Held, reversing state court, that state bonds "payable in gold" are good, even though the state law does not authorize payment in any particular kind of money, and must be paid in the coin agreed upon. — The vacancy on the bench of the supreme court, caused by the death of Justice Jackson, was filled by the appointment in December of Judge R. W. Peckham, of New York. — In the circuit courts, at New Orleans, December 18, the Sugar Bounty Act, which the comptroller of the treasury had refused to recognize as valid, was declared constitutional, and an appeal was taken to the supreme court; at Cheyenne, November 21, held, that the hunting rights of the Bannock Indians, as established by federal treaties, were secure against any provisions of the game laws of the states (see last RECORD, p. 738); at Cleveland, January 28, held, that the Ohio law which forbids certain corporations to require employees to waive right to damages for personal injuries, is unconstitutional, as depriving persons of liberty of contract, without due process of law.

ELECTIONS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS. — The state election in Rhode Island, April 1, resulted in a Republican victory by about eleven thousand plurality over the Democrats. In Louisiana an election April 21 resulted, on the face of the returns, in a majority of twenty-three thousand for Foster, the Democratic candidate for governor. The campaign had been an unusually exciting one, owing to the combination of Populists, Republicans and protectionist Democrats against the long-dominant regular Democracy. The opposition claimed that the Democratic majority returned was fraudulent, having been made up chiefly in the "black belt," where the negroes were in fact prevented from voting. A constitutional amendment was submitted at this election for ratification, requiring as a qualification for the suffrage either the ability to read or write, or the ownership of \$300 worth of property on which taxes are paid. — The presidential canvass was definitely opened by the action of the Republican and Democratic national committees in December and January, fixing the meetings of the nominating conventions respectively at St. Louis, June 16, and Chicago, July 7. In the various proceedings leading up to the choice of delegates by the state organizations especial interest was excited by the attitude taken on the silver question. This was important in view of active efforts of the silver factions in both parties, with threats of "bolting," to commit the parties to support of the free-coinage idea. Of the Republican state conventions the following have declared unqualifiedly against free coinage: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Kentucky, New York, Indiana. Of the Democratic state conventions, the following have declared unqualifiedly in favor of free coinage: Oregon, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee. In most of the other states the conventions have qualified their expressions on the subject so as not to make a clear-cut issue. But some Democratic conventions in the East have come out definitely against free coinage, while a number of Republican conventions in the West have declared as distinctly for it. — As to the candidates for

nomination for the presidency, ex-Governor McKinley, of Ohio, Governor Morton, of New York, Speaker Reed, of Maine, Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, and Senator Allison, of Iowa, have been put openly in the field on the Republican side, while ex-President Harrison has declined to permit the use of his name. On the Democratic side ex-Congressman Morrison, of Illinois, ex-Congressman Bland, of Missouri, and ex-Governor Russell, of Massachusetts, have been put in the field, while Secretary of State Carlisle has declined. — The National Advisory Board of the American Protective Association issued a circular April 12 urging members to make every effort to have elected as delegates to the Republican national convention men who were in sympathy with the purposes of the association, and denouncing the candidacy of McKinley on the ground that he was the choice of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and in confidential relations with leading "papists." The other leading Republican candidates had previously been declared unexceptionable from the point of view of the A. P. A.

VARIOUS STATE LEGISLATION. — The constitutional convention of **South Carolina** finally completed its work December 4, and the new instrument, without submission to the people, went into effect with the new year. The more prominent features of the convention's work were mentioned in the last RECORD. In passing the acts necessary to carry out the constitutional provisions as to the suffrage, the legislature rejected all amendments designed to qualify the discretion conferred upon the registration officers in testing the applicant's ability to "explain" a clause of the constitution. — In **New York** a bill became law February 17, under which Prussian insurance companies were excluded from transacting business within the state. This action was in retaliation for alleged unjust treatment of several New York companies by the Prussian authorities. On January 21 the state court of appeals declared unconstitutional an act of the last legislature, exempting veterans of the Civil War from the competitive examinations required by the constitution in the filling of offices. This civil-service clause of the constitution as revised in 1894 was rigorously maintained by the court in another decision, also, in March, which held that the clause was self-executing and went into effect at once without action of the legislature. — The supreme court of **Indiana**, on January 30, declared unconstitutional the legislative apportionment act of 1895. As two preceding apportionments had also been set aside as invalid, that made as long ago as 1885 was thus brought again into force. In **Wisconsin** at the beginning of March a special session of the legislature resulted in an apportionment designed to replace one which had been declared unconstitutional by the state supreme court. The validity of the new act, however, was at once attacked, and the matter is before the courts again. — In respect to **the liquor question**, the feature of the period under review has been the **Raines Liquor Tax Law**, which was passed by the New York legislature in March, receiving the governor's signature on the 23d. This is a high-license

act, with local option for towns, and it imposes severe restrictions on the traffic in other particulars. Sunday selling is absolutely prohibited, and the proximity of saloons to dwelling-houses, schools and churches is carefully regulated. But the most revolutionary feature of the act is the abolition of all local boards of excise and the creation of a corps of state officials to whom is entrusted the entire administration of the system, under the direction of a commissioner appointed by the governor. Of the net revenue derived from licenses, one-third goes to the state treasury and the remainder to the localities where it is collected. In South Carolina the authorities have succeeded in greatly decreasing the number of illicit saloons ("blind tigers") by the policy of lowering prices in the state dispensaries. In January this policy had been so successful that it was thought safe to advance prices again. Under the new constitution of the state the entire revenue from the dispensaries is devoted to the support of the schools. In Iowa another attempt to get the prohibitory amendment before the people again was defeated, February 27, by the failure of a resolution to that effect in the lower house of the legislature.—The policy of **the Mormons in Utah**, who constitute a majority in the first state legislature, has been watched with great interest and some suspicion. The legislature petitioned Congress to restore the church property which was confiscated some years ago, and passed a law legitimating the issue of polygamous marriages born prior to January 4, 1896. Bills for subsidizing silk culture and for restrictions on hours of labor in mines were criticised as designed to favor the forms of industry in which the Mormons were especially interested and to discourage all others. At a conference of the Mormon Church, April 7, a manifesto was issued declaring that officers of that church, before accepting political positions or nominations, must obtain the consent of the church authorities.

LABOR INTERESTS.—Both the Knights of Labor and the Federation of Labor, in their respective annual meetings of November 13 in Washington and December 10 in New York, manifested strong hostility to the financial policy of the national government, and a pessimistic feeling as to the future of the country under the dominance of the capitalistic influences which were alleged to control that policy. Mr. Sovereign was reelected chief of the Knights of Labor. In the Federation a lively contest resulted in the return to power, by a small majority, of Mr. Gompers, who was defeated last year by Mr. McBride. The significance of this result seems to have consisted in a test of strength between the element favoring trades-unionism "pure and simple," represented by Mr. Gompers, and the element tending to a more socialistic and political policy, to which Mr. McBride was committed.—The only strike of great public significance during the period was that of the trolley-men in Philadelphia, December 17-25. All the surface roads were "tied up," and violence was common. The cause was a dispute as to the recognition of the employees' organization, and the settlement was reached by a compromise effected through the mediation of outsiders.

LYNCH LAW. — The legislative period of the past winter was characterized by manifestations of a serious purpose on the part of the governments of several Southern states to grapple with the lynching evil. Upon the recommendation of the constitutional convention and of the governor, the legislature of South Carolina adopted a bill imposing severe penalties upon any officer permitting a person in his charge to be taken from him and lynched, and making the county in which a lynching takes place liable in exemplary damages to the legal representative of the victim, the county to recoup itself from the lynchers. Legislation for the same purpose was recommended by the governors of Virginia, Kentucky and Georgia, but was enacted only in the last-named state. This act was directed solely to cases in which outsiders interfered with the execution of a court's order after trial ; it prescribed heavy penalties for such interference and required the officers interfered with, on pain of summary removal, to bring the offenders to justice. — A record of lynchings reported in the newspapers, which makes no pretense to completeness, shows the following results : Total number of victims, thirty-six, of whom twenty-one were negroes. The alleged offense was rape in fifteen cases, ten being rape of a white woman by a negro. Of the total number of instances, all but one occurred in states south of Mason and Dixon's Line, Maryland and West Virginia having one each. The single case in the North was the hanging of a white man in Illinois charged with rape of his sister-in-law. A case that attracted unusual attention was that in Colleton County, South Carolina, in which a negro, his wife and his mother were seized by a mob on the charge of being implicated in frequent robberies in the neighborhood, and were whipped by their accusers with such severity that the man and his mother died. The state authorities made a determined effort to convict the murderers, among whom were several men of good social standing, but the trial resulted, February 25, in an acquittal. In Tennessee and Alabama flagrant cases in which offenders were taken from custody and lynched gave rise to the offer of substantial rewards by the governors for evidence against the lynchers, but without result. In one instance in South Carolina a prompt call upon the militia by the sheriff frustrated an attack by a mob on the jail. — At Marion, Mississippi, November 12 was appointed as the day for the execution of the man who was rescued by vote of the spectators at the failure of the first attempt at lawful hanging two years ago (*cf.* this *QUARTERLY*, IX, 362). This time a mob broke open the jail on the night before the day set for execution and rescued the prisoner. — A serious state of affairs prevailed in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, in the early part of April, due to a political faction fight among the whites. One faction sought to strengthen itself for the approaching election by encouraging the negroes to qualify themselves for voting by registration. The opposing faction took up arms to prevent the negroes from registering, and in the conflict several lives were lost, chiefly negroes. The state militia dispatched to the region seemed unable to restore order until the time for registration had passed.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.—An attempt by the mayor of Baltimore to administer the city government on non-political lines met with a severe check through the action of the city council in March. The mayor and council are Republican, having been carried in by the tidal wave of the November elections. The mayor undertook, however, to follow non-partisan ideas in appointing subordinate officers, and this the council resented. The outcome was a series of measures passed by the council, March 9, over the mayor's veto, which deprived the mayor of the appointing power in case of all salaried offices of the city government. An appeal to the legislature to prevent this sweeping change in the character of the city government met with no favorable response. — In the West during the last year a movement has become very common among the smaller cities and towns for "curfew" ordinances, designed to keep children off the streets after a reasonable hour of the evening. Originating in Minnesota, such ordinances have been adopted by large numbers of towns in the states west of the Mississippi. Various attempts have been made to get similar laws passed in the larger cities, but thus far without much success. Omaha, however, adopted a curfew ordinance in March.

II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.—The Jameson raid into the Transvaal (see below, p. 382) gave rise to a brief but exceedingly violent ebullition of hostile feeling between **Great Britain and Germany**. Upon the telegraphic appeal of German residents in the Transvaal the German government took steps, just when affairs were most critical at Johannesburg, to send a detachment of marines from a cruiser at Delagoa Bay to the scene of disturbance, though the project was abandoned upon the news of Jameson's capture. A few days later, January 3, the emperor sent a dispatch congratulating President Krüger on his success in defeating the armed invaders. British public sentiment took great offense at both these incidents. They were regarded as trenching on the supposed suzerain rights of Great Britain over the Transvaal, and as embodying a deliberate insult to a friendly power. The press teemed with denunciations and defiance of Germany, which were repaid in kind by the German press, the long-standing feud between the colonial interests of the two nations in South Africa contributing much to nourish the controversy. The sympathy of the other Continental powers seemed to be largely with Germany; and Great Britain, being in the midst of her embroilment with the United States over the Venezuelan boundary question, stood apparently in complete and perilous isolation. That even the government felt the situation appeared to be indicated by the ostentatious mobilization of a powerful naval squadron in the channel on January 14. But when the unauthorized character of the Jameson raid had been established, and official explanations of Germany's actions had been made, the hostile manifestations died away, and soon the two governments

were on terms of normal harmony. — This harmony was most impressively manifested as one of the **consequences of Italy's defeat in Abyssinia**. The disaster at Adowa, involving serious political and financial complications in Italy, was at once followed by expressions of sympathy and concern on the part of the other members of the Triple Alliance. The Austro-Hungarian foreign minister consulted with the German government at Berlin. At the same time it was reported, March 16, that the Czar had conferred a high military decoration upon King Menelik, and various incidents indicated the sentiment of France that Italy had only received what she deserved. Upon the indications that Italy would feel constrained to abandon Kassala, communications were entered upon between Great Britain and the government of King Humbert, which resulted in an understanding that Kassala should be held, while the attention of the Mahdists should be diverted by the Dongola expedition (*infra*, p. 394). The relations thus established between Italy and Great Britain naturally relaxed the tension between the latter and Germany, and led to rumors that the Triple Alliance had become quadruple. The harmony of the four powers as against France and Russia was clearly illustrated in the proceedings of the Egyptian Public Debt Commission. That body, being called upon to sanction the application of reserve funds to the purposes of the Dongola expedition, gave its approval March 26, against the protests of the French and Russian representatives. An appeal was made to the Mixed Tribunal by French bondholders against this decision. In April, the German Emperor visited King Humbert at Venice and Emperor Francis Joseph at Vienna. Conferences between the monarchs and their ministers were reported to have dealt with the renewal of the Triple Alliance at the expiration of its present term. — An important step towards settling controverted questions of colonial boundaries between Great Britain and France was taken in the convention signed January 15, in which the delimitation of actual possessions and of spheres of influence in Siam was definitely decided, and negotiations were provided for in respect to similar results in Tunis and the Niger country. The Siamese adjustment confirmed to France considerable extensions of territory beyond what she had secured through the affair of 1893 (see this QUARTERLY, VIII, 787).

THE TRANSVAAL AND GREAT BRITAIN. — The long-standing antithesis between Dutch conservatism and British progressiveness in South Africa has been illustrated by some of the most sensational incidents of the period under review. Within the last ten years the discovery of important gold deposits within the Transvaal Republic has attracted a large foreign population, chiefly British. Johannesburg, a large town of a general type familiar in our western mining states, is the center of this population and its interests, and the mining district in the vicinity is known as the Witwaters Rand. For some time the people of the Rand have complained that the Transvaal government, either through deliberation or through incapacity, failed to give them and their interests anything like the consideration to

which their numbers and their contributions to the wealth of the state entitled them; and any hope of aiding themselves was excluded, they pointed out, through the existing laws, which were so framed as to insure the control of the government to the ultra-conservative Boers. Last autumn the tension between the foreigners (*uitlanders*) and the government became very great, and preparations were secretly begun by the more extreme elements among the former for an armed uprising. The demands of the *uitlanders* included extensive reforms in administrative organization and methods, so as to adapt them to the needs of an industrial community, the extension to the foreigners of equal civil rights with the native population, equality of the English with the Dutch language in the schools and in official use, and some degree of representation for the *uitlanders* in the government. Apparently in accordance with a preconcerted plan, a considerable force of the British South Africa Company's armed police, under Dr. Jameson, its chief officer, was concentrated during December at Mafeking, near the western frontier of the Transvaal Republic. On December 28 a number of prominent residents of Johannesburg sent to Jameson a letter, representing that the lives and property of the *uitlanders* were in danger from the Boers, and calling upon him to come to their aid. Jameson promptly set out with some 800 volunteers and six cannon for Johannesburg. Orders to return to British soil were promptly sent from London and Cape Town, but were disregarded. Meanwhile President Krüger had called the Boers to arms, and partly by threats and partly by promises of concessions, succeeded in preventing any outbreak at Johannesburg. A strong force dispatched to meet Jameson came upon him at Krügersdorp, not far from Johannesburg, and after a sharp fight forced him to surrender, January 2. Both the British government and the British South Africa Company promptly disavowed all knowledge of, or responsibility for, Jameson's proceedings; but the Boers were very distrustful of the good faith in this disavowal, especially since Jameson had been in confidential relations with Cecil Rhodes, the premier of the Cape Colony and head of the South Africa Company, and a brother of Rhodes was one of the signers of the letter which summoned Jameson to make his raid. A number of highly connected British officers, moreover, accompanied Jameson, and it was known that British domination in the Transvaal had long been a familiar item of policy in British colonial circles. The Transvaal government, after holding their prisoners a few days, delivered them over to the British authorities for punishment. At the same time, January 7, the revolutionary elements at Johannesburg were forced to surrender the arms and other supplies that they had collected, and to put themselves at the mercy of the Boer government. Several of the ringleaders, including one American, were arrested on the charge of treason, and a large number of others who were implicated were held on lesser charges. All these incidents had been attended by manifestations of active interest on the part of the British government, and a correspondence was entered upon by Mr. Chamberlain, colonial secretary, with President Krüger, as to the steps desirable for

the maintenance of order in the Rand. Mr. Chamberlain suggested the concession of some measure of local autonomy to the region, and invited President Krüger to visit England in order to discuss freely the whole situation. The latter distinctly rejected any right of Great Britain to interfere in the internal affairs of the Transvaal, and demanded, as a basis for all negotiation, that Great Britain should renounce the supervision of foreign relations which had been conceded to her by treaty in 1884. A reply to the invitation to England was not given by President Krüger till April 25, and then it took the form of a request that the invitation might not be pressed. Thereupon the invitation was withdrawn. — Jameson and the officers who accompanied him were arraigned in London, February 25, on the charge of violating the Foreign Enlistment Act, but their trial has not yet taken place. The accused were received with many demonstrations of popular sympathy, which the authorities, however, endeavored to suppress. Mr. Cecil Rhodes, immediately after the Jameson raid, resigned his office as prime minister of Cape Colony. He later visited England, and apparently convinced the government that he was innocent of complicity in Jameson's transaction. A curtailment of the South Africa Company's power was effected, however, by an order putting the whole control of the police and military affairs of the company's territory in the hands of government officials. The *uitlanders* arrested at Johannesburg were brought to trial at Pretoria in April, and on the 27th four of them pleaded guilty to the charge of high treason, and fifty-nine others to lesser charges. The four were sentenced next day to be hanged, and the others to fines, imprisonment and banishment. The death sentences were, however, at once "taken off," and the precise punishment left undecided. At the trial the Transvaal government put in evidence certain captured cipher dispatches between Johannesburg, Cape Town and Mafeking, which indicated that Cecil Rhodes and other officials of the South Africa Company were actively concerned in the preparations for Jameson's raid.

TURKEY AND ARMENIA.—The crisis that existed in the Ottoman Empire at the end of the last RECORD, continued acute through the first half of the winter. The harrying of the Armenians was reported from all parts of eastern Anatolia. The slain were numbered by thousands, and in large districts the survivors were left in pitiful destitution by systematic pillage and devastation. By midwinter the disturbances had dwindled to occasional acts of isolated outrage, and order was in a measure restored, save at the mountain fastness of Zeitun, where a desperate band of Armenians maintained themselves against a besieging Turkish force until February 18, surrendering at last only through the mediation of foreign consuls. An unceasing pressure was kept upon the Sultan by the great powers to insure the promotion of the reforms and the restoration of order in Armenia; but the effect of this pressure was greatly lessened by the fact, well known to the Porte, that Russia had declined either to take part in any joint application of force to the Sultan, or to sanction the use of force by any single power. When the outrages upon the Armenians were renewed with such vehemence

at the end of October, Russia did manifest for a time an inclination to strong measures, but later, supported by Austria-Hungary, she recurred to her former position. Lord Salisbury, in an address at London, January 31, declared that the only effective method of terminating the Armenian troubles would be a military occupation of the disturbed region; that the other powers were unwilling to carry this out; and that Great Britain was unable to do it alone, as well as unwilling to bring about the general European war which would result from the undertaking. In the consciousness that force would not be used, the Sultan was successful in resisting the moral pressure that was brought to bear in connection with various incidents that arose. He manifested personally much earnestness in striving to restore order and good government in the disturbed regions; but the repeated manifestations of activity among the revolutionary agitators at Constantinople made him extremely sensitive to the loss of prestige that would attend any appearance of submission to foreign dictation. Thus the demand of the powers that each should be permitted to send an additional gunboat through the Dardanelles to Constantinople for protection to foreigners in case of rioting, was only granted, December 10, after several weeks of animated negotiations. The paramount influence of Russia with the Porte was manifested at this time, and later there were rumors, officially denied, however, of a formal alliance between the two governments. — As the winter came on, the peril of the people in the devastated regions from exposure and starvation was made the basis of urgent appeals for assistance, sent forth by missionaries and other residents. Great Britain and America took up, through private organizations, the work of raising and forwarding supplies, and large provision was made. But here again obstacles were raised by the Ottoman government. The Sultan declared that he himself was able and willing to relieve the affliction of any of his subjects. An official Turkish relief commission was organized; and it was only after a good deal of friction that foreign contributions were allowed to be distributed through any other than this agency. The distribution of money raised abroad was unconditionally prohibited. Of the American missionaries, the Porte manifested constant suspicion. They were charged with encouraging the revolutionists among the Armenians.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. — British political thought and interest prior to the assembling of Parliament were concentrated almost exclusively on the foreign relations of the empire. In a considerable degree the Armenian question, and in a very intense degree the Venezuelan and the Transvaal incidents, roused public spirit to a demonstrative pitch. The development and outcome of these incidents are treated above. — **Parliament** met February 11. The Queen's Speech dealt largely with the foreign relations. As to internal affairs, it declared the condition of agriculture to be "disastrous beyond recent experience," and promised measures for the relief of the classes affected. Other projects foreshadowed were a modification of the elementary school system, an Employers' Liability Bill and an Irish

Land Bill. In the debates as the session progressed, the ministry's position on foreign questions was developed thus : As to the Venezuelan boundary, the interest of the United States in the matter was admitted ; and without any concession that the British claim or policy was wrong, the expectation of a peaceful solution of the problem was asserted. In reference to Armenia, the government admitted that its readiness to force the Porte to act more vigorously in suppressing the disorders and inaugurating the reforms had been nullified by the refusal of the other powers to use more than moral suasion ; but Lord Salisbury felicitated himself upon having at least avoided a general European war. As to the Transvaal, the purpose was announced of maintaining against all the world the suzerainty of Great Britain over the Transvaal Republic to the full extent recognized in the treaty of 1884. The naval demonstration which had been made in January (see above, p. 380) was supplemented by the announcement, March 2, of the naval program and policy of the government. Mr. Goschen's estimates for the navy included proposals for a very large increase in ships, in men and in various forms of naval works, such as docks and machine shops. The money demanded reached a total of £55,000,000, distributed over a series of years. In March the government's announcement that the Dongola expedition against the Mahdists had been decided upon was made the basis of a motion of censure by Mr. Morley, which was defeated, March 20, by 288 to 145. — The government's leading measures were introduced as follows : March 31, by Sir John Gorst, the Education Bill, extending the facilities for secondary education, and putting the elementary school system under administrative charge of committees appointed by the county councils, with powers so adjusted as to favor the voluntary schools and to encourage religious instruction in the board schools ; April 13, by Mr. Gerald Balfour, the Irish Land Bill, amending and supplementing the former land-purchase acts in various points, and facilitating purchase by making the terms easier for the purchaser ; April 20, by Mr. Chaplin, the Agricultural Rating Bill, relieving agricultural land of local taxation on half its assessed value, the deficiency to be made good by the royal exchequer. The budget was presented by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, April 16. The past year, he announced, showed the largest surplus the treasury had ever known — £4,210,000, which was to be allotted chiefly to naval expenditures. For the ensuing year a surplus of £1,708,000 was estimated, which was to be applied to the proposed reduction of agricultural rating, and to an increase of education grants. The Agricultural Rating Bill passed its second reading April 30, by a majority of 177. — The dissensions among the Irish Nationalists have assumed an even more disastrous form than heretofore. On November 14 the Parliamentary committee of the Nationalist Party expelled Mr. Healy and his nearest friend from the committee. Later, Mr. Justin McCarthy gave up the effort to rule the distracted body, and resigned the chairmanship of the committee. After a vain effort to heal differences by the choice of Mr. Sexton to succeed McCarthy, Mr. John Dillon

was finally chosen. As Dillon was the chief of the faction opposed by Healy, this outcome practically adds a third to the two parties into which the Nationalists were divided at the fall of Parnell. The more extreme Parnellites, and indeed some members of the other factions, publicly expressed great satisfaction at the embarrassments which seemed to threaten Great Britain in connection with the Venezuelan, and especially with the Transvaal episode.

THE BRITISH COLONIES AND INDIA.—Great Britain's apparently embarrassing position in her foreign relations at the beginning of the new year drew from the governments of nearly all her colonies patriotic assurances of loyal support in defending the integrity of the empire, and of sympathy with the home government's resolution to resent foreign interference in matters of colonial concern. A joint message to that effect came from the Australian Colonies and Tasmania, January 10; Natal and the Cape Colony expressed similar views, and the Canadian government broached a scheme of strengthening her defenses, while the Dominion Parliament adopted a resolution asserting unalterable loyalty to the throne, at the same time expressing a desire for friendly relations with the United States. — **The Manitoba school question** has continued to hold the chief place in Canadian politics. After refusing to come to terms with the Dominion government, the Manitoba premier, Greenaway, dissolved his legislature and appealed to the people. The elections, January 15, resulted in an overwhelming triumph for the ministry. Meanwhile the Dominion Parliament assembled January 2. After a cabinet crisis, due to dissatisfaction with the leadership of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, had failed to cause his retirement, the Remedial Bill, dealing with the Manitoba question, was introduced February 11. It provided for the establishment of separate schools for Catholics, but with stringent regulations to secure in them a standard of efficiency equal to that of the other schools. The maintenance of the separate schools was to be secured by the diversion of the school taxes paid by citizens who should elect to have their contributions so applied. As the provincial government had steadfastly refused to recognize any but the public schools, administrative machinery under Dominion auspices was provided for to carry out the act. The debates on this project in the House of Commons were bitter and protracted. The bill passed its second reading March 20, by 112 to 94. In committee, however, the opposition resorted to all available methods of obstruction, and finally, after a continuous session of six days, the government, April 15, announced the withdrawal of the bill. On the 23d, Parliament, having reached about the end of its term, was prorogued, and immediately afterward it was dissolved and elections were ordered. Meanwhile another attempt at compromise with the Manitoba government on the basis of mutual concessions had failed. On the 27th of April the prime minister, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, resigned his office. Shortly after a reorganization of the cabinet was effected by Sir Charles Tupper, who assumed the post of premier. — The project

for **Australian federation** has made an important advance toward realization. In accordance with the method agreed upon more than a year ago (see this RECORD for June, 1895, p. 378), an identical bill providing for the election of delegates to a convention was enacted into law during the winter by the legislatures of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. The next step will be the drafting of a constitution by a convention consisting of ten delegates from each colony. The tendency to consultation for action in common concerns was illustrated by a conference of premiers held at Sydney, March 4, at which projects were considered bearing upon federal defense, immigration restriction, and quarantine and light-house regulation. — The financial reform in New South Wales, which had brought the two houses of the legislature to a deadlock at the end of the last RECORD, was adjusted by a compromise, under which the limit of exemption from both land-tax and income-tax was materially reduced from the figure originally proposed. — The question of duties on cotton in India was again taken up by the Legislative Council in the winter, and on February 3 the duty on woven cottons was reduced from five to three and one-half per cent, with other changes, also in the interest of the Lancashire mills. The discussion of the measure revealed again the opposition between the official and the non-official members of the council (*cf.* this RECORD for June, 1895, p. 378).

FRANCE. — Much interest was excited by the success of the Radical Bourgeois ministry in maintaining itself in power through the winter, though the Radicals were in a minority in both Chamber of Deputies and Senate. **The budget** for 1896, in the shape in which it had been framed by the Ribot cabinet, was passed in December, in time to be applied at the beginning of the fiscal year. This punctuality, unusual in recent times, won credit for the ministry. A new Succession Tax Law, in which the duties on certain inheritances reached as high as twenty per cent, was a feature of the revenue system adopted. On February 1, the budget for 1897, a distinctively Radical project, was presented to the Chamber. The provision on which the ministry staked its existence was that of a progressive income tax, to supplant the door-and-window tax. Under the new project, incomes of over 2500 francs were to be taxed on the excess at rates varying from one to five per cent, with reductions proportioned to the number of children in the family. The highest rate applied to incomes above 50,000 francs. Strong opposition to the project was manifested in the Chamber, and the election of the budget committee resulted in the choice of a large majority hostile to the measure. But a hot struggle in the Chamber ended, March 26, in a vote accepting the principle of the general income tax, by 286 to 270, reserving all questions as to methods of applying it. Besides the income tax, the proposed budget embodied considerable reductions in expenses, with application of the savings partly to debt redemption and partly to subsidies to societies for the relief of the sick and aged and of children. — Pending the progress of its financial policy the ministry became involved in a constitu-

tional conflict with the Senate, which at last resulted in the **fall of the cabinet**. On the 11th of February an interpellation in reference to the action of M. Ricard, minister of justice, in supplanting the officer engaged in investigating a railroad scandal, resulted in a vote of censure on the minister and on the cabinet, who assumed responsibility for his act. M. Bourgeois carried the matter to the Chamber of Deputies, where, on the 13th he received a vote of confidence on the same issue. Relying on the action of the Chamber he declined to resign, even when the Senate again censured the ministry. On the 20th the Chamber again sustained the ministry by several votes, the least favorable standing 279 to 234. The Senate, on the following day, gave way, adopting by 184 to 60 a declaration that, though the ministry's refusal to recognize responsibility to the Senate was unconstitutional, the latter would not carry the matter to extremes that would endanger the public peace, but would leave the country to judge upon the case. On the 3d of April the Senate once more took up the fight, by voting no confidence in the ministry in connection with its foreign policy. Here the Chamber had previously voted confidence, and the ministry refused to resign. On the 21st the dispute was brought to a head by a vote of the Senate, refusing to consider certain Madagascar appropriation bills until a new ministry should be formed. Thereupon M. Bourgeois summoned the Chamber of Deputies, which was in recess, and announced to it on the 23d the resignation of the cabinet, protesting that he did not concede the Senate's right to take the position it had taken, but considered the maintenance of the national dignity in Madagascar paramount to all other questions. The Chamber promptly adopted a resolution reaffirming the preponderance of the representatives elected by universal suffrage. A cabinet of moderates formed by M. Méline assumed office on the 30th, with a program calling for harmony between the two houses of the legislature, and deprecating useless and irritating discussions.

GERMANY. — The late autumn and early winter were characterized by unusual activity on the part of the imperial authorities in prosecutions for *Majestäts-beleidigung*. Many newspaper editors and Socialist public speakers were convicted and imprisoned. Among the latter was Herr Liebknecht, the Socialist party leader. In the middle of November a prosecution was instituted against Professor Delbrück, the well-known historian, for an article in the *Preussische Jahrbücher* which was alleged to cast discredit on the authorities. Even the Conservative press joined in the protest against the government's course in this case, and the proceedings were discontinued before bringing the professor to trial. At the end of November the Berlin police made a concerted raid on the houses and haunts of conspicuous Socialists and seized a large quantity of papers, whereupon the leaders transported the party's funds and other property to Zürich, for security against other governmental searches. Shortly afterwards a number of committees engaged in conducting the business of the party were dissolved by the government as dangerous associations. These aggressive measures were generally attributed to Herr von Köller, the Prussian minister of the

interior, and were said to be distasteful, in their manner at least, to his colleagues. These reports seemed to be confirmed by the retirement of the minister in the second week of December, and the appointment of Count von der Reck as his successor. — **The Reichstag** assembled for its winter session December 3. Chief among the measures announced by the government was the submission of the Imperial Civil Code, which has been in process of formulation for over twenty years. Other projects dealt chiefly with fiscal and economic questions, — *e.g.*, reform of the sugar-tax, regulation of the bourses, repression of dishonest competition in trade, *etc.* The draft of the Civil Code was introduced January 17, and in February, after some discussion, was referred to a committee. Its progress there revealed a serious resistance to the draft in connection with the civil marriage provision. The Conservatives, supported by the Centrists, sought to make the civil marriage optional rather than compulsory. Their proposition was rejected, however, by the committee at the end of April. In the Bourse Bill, as it passed its second reading May 1, a provision forbidding dealings in “futures” in grain was inserted by a vote of 200 to 39. The success of the Agrarians in this matter was balanced by the rejection in January of their favorite Kanitz Bill for the government monopoly of grain importation, the vote standing 219 to 97. The death of a prominent noble in a duel led to an animated discussion of the practice of duelling, and to the unanimous adoption, April 21, of a resolution requesting the government to use all means at its disposal to combat the practice. The chancellor's statement in regard to this matter conceded the desirability of a stricter enforcement of the laws against duelling, but declared that “those who are determined to fight will always find ways and means to carry out their purpose.” The Radicals and Socialists claimed that such concessions really encouraged the illegal practice, and that it could never be extirpated so long as the military code required officers to accept challenges, and notorious duellists were received with favor in imperial court circles. On the 8th of February Chancellor von Hohenlohe announced that the Bundesrath had declined to approve the proposal of the Reichstag in its last session, looking to a monetary conference under German auspices for the rehabilitation of silver. — In the Prussian Landtag, which assembled January 15, the chief interest has been in projects for improvements in the organization and salaries of the lower schools, and for the benefit of agricultural industries. The Saxon Landtag reformed the electoral system of Saxony by substituting for direct universal suffrage a class system of indirect election on the Prussian model. Three classes of electors were created according to income, the first including those having 10,000 marks, the second, from 2800 to 10,000, and the third all other tax-payers. Each class is to elect one-third of the electors who choose members of the Landtag. It was admitted that the purpose of the law was to exclude the Socialists from power.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY. — The Badeni government's **Electoral Reform Bill** was introduced in the Reichsrath February 15. It provides for the

addition of 72 new seats to the lower house of the Reichsrath, making the total number 425. The new seats are to be filled practically through impartial manhood suffrage, all male citizens 24 years of age and with a six-months' residence in the district being entitled to vote, though in some cases not directly for the member. The other members of the legislature are chosen by the four *curiae* as before (*cf.* this RECORD for June, 1894, p. 370). Of the new seats, eighteen are assigned to Bohemia, fifteen to Galicia, and various smaller numbers to each of the other provinces of the empire. It is calculated that the Socialists will secure about a dozen seats under the new system. The bill was taken up for discussion in the middle of April and, meeting with little opposition, passed its third reading, May 7, by 234 to 19. — The preliminary ministerial negotiations in respect to the renewal of the compact of union between Austria and Hungary have been carried on quietly since the first of January. In February the two legislatures appointed committees to deal with the question of the respective quotas of contribution to the common expenses. The first proposition of Austria was that Hungary's portion should be forty per cent, while Hungary offered but thirty-three. A compromise at about thirty-five seems probable. The Radicals in both countries claim to favor a total separation of the two by refusing to renew the compact. — The conflict between the **government and the Anti-Semites** in Vienna has continued throughout the period under review. Dr. Lueger, after his election as burgomaster was vetoed by the emperor, as noted in the last RECORD, was again elected by the municipal council by 92 out of 137 votes. Thereupon the council was once more dissolved, November 13, and the city government put in the hands of an imperial commissioner. Attacks on the government's policy by Anti-Semites and Conservatives in the Reichsrath were easily defeated. At the end of February elections were again held for the municipal council, and they resulted, as before, in a large Anti-Semitic majority. On the 18th of April Dr. Lueger was once more chosen burgomaster, by 96 to 42. This time, after a personal interview with the emperor, he consented to decline the position and to accept that of vice-burgomaster, while some less conspicuous member of his party should be chosen to the first place. This arrangement was regarded as a surrender by the government, and it produced a profound sensation in Hungary, whose people and government were the objects of bitter attacks by Lueger. — The Hungarians began on May 2 an elaborate celebration of the millennium of their national life.

ITALY. — The Crispi cabinet met the Parliament on November 21 under very favorable auspices. The revenues promised an equilibrium in the budget; general quiet prevailed at home; and negotiations which were in progress with the Ras Makonen, seemed to promise the speedy accomplishment of the ministry's purpose to annex the Abyssinian province of Tigre. All these fair prospects were blighted, however, by the series of reverses in Africa that began in December (see below, p. 394). The finances were disordered by the additional military appropriations required for Africa;

and popular tumults, stimulated by the Radicals and Socialists, attended the dispatch of reinforcements and broke up the internal quiet. Upon intelligence of the great disaster of March 1 at Adowa, rioting and demonstrations against the government became general in the larger cities and towns, and on the 5th the Crispi cabinet resigned. Three days later a ministry, under the presidency of the Marquis di Rudini, was announced. The new prime minister presented his program on the 17th. It involved a prosecution of the war until honorable terms of peace could be secured, but renounced the policy of expansion in Africa, and declared that neither the conquest of Tigre nor the maintenance of a full protectorate over Abyssinia would be insisted upon. The financial statement to the Chamber on May 5 was optimistic in tone. A deficit for the current year of a million lire was announced, which it was said could be easily met, without new taxes. — In Sicily the military rule that had prevailed for two years was withdrawn by decree of December 29. On the 6th of April the general administration of the island was committed to a royal commissioner, with headquarters at Palermo, and with powers of a far-reaching character over the ordinary officers of local government.

SPAIN AND CUBA. — Home conditions in Spanish politics have presented few points of especial interest. A revelation of grave corruption in the municipal administration of Madrid, in December, caused a passing sensation and resulted in the disgrace of some personages of high social standing. The Conservative Canovas ministry, with the consent of the Liberal majority in the legislature, carried on the government, awaiting a propitious moment for appealing to the electors. On February 26, the governor-general having given assurance that elections in Cuba would be possible, the Cortes was dissolved. The elections, held April 12, resulted, as is usual, in an overwhelming victory for the government. In Cuba and Puerto Rico, however, the Autonomist and Reformist Parties abstained from voting. The Republican Party in the home country, scenting advantage to its projects in the critical conditions of the times, healed up the factional differences that had divided it, but at the same time refrained from going to the polls. — It was the progress of **the Cuban insurrection** that constituted the central feature in the politics of the period. The aggressive campaign which Martinez Campos had prepared at the end of the last RECORD was anticipated and thwarted by the insurgents. The latter, under Gomez and Maceo, took the offensive themselves, and, moving westward, had by the end of December overrun the provinces of Santa Clara and Matanzas and forced the Spaniards to busy themselves with the defense of Havana. During the first week in January the insurgents were operating within ten miles of that city and were overrunning Pinar del Rio, the westernmost province of the island. Besides recruiting men and gathering supplies, the Cuban leaders devoted themselves particularly to enforcing their decree that sugar grinding should not be carried on. They burned much cane and destroyed much machinery on estates which did not con-

form to this decree. By the necessity of protecting these estates, and by the havoc made by the insurgents with the railway and telegraph lines, the Spanish commanders were greatly embarrassed in opposing the invaders. The latter pursued their accustomed tactics of avoiding a pitched battle, and, being now well mounted, they easily evaded the infantry columns of their enemies. On the 17th of January, in consequence of the dissatisfaction of the political leaders with the lenient policy of the captain-general, Martinez Campos was recalled. His successor, General Weyler, reached Havana February 10, and announced a more rigorous policy than that hitherto employed. Attributing the successes of the insurgents to aid and sympathy from the inhabitants of the inland regions, he issued a proclamation, February 17, authorizing summary proceedings against persons guilty of a long series of offenses, embracing practically every species of act, omission or expression favorable to the insurgents. Moreover, for the easternmost provinces he decreed a registration and passport system, which was later extended to the western provinces. Many arrests and executions under the operation of these decrees have been reported, and summary executions of members of the organized insurgent forces, on charges of pillage and arson, have taken place. By the middle of April Gen. Weyler had succeeded in establishing a *trocha*, or line of works, twenty-three miles long, across the narrow part of the island just west of Havana, and had concentrated here the bulk of his forces that were not engaged in garrison duty in the towns. This *trocha* separated the insurgent force under Maceo, in Pinar del Rio, from the main body under Gomez, which had returned eastward into Santa Clara. Fighting at various points along this line was reported at the close of this RECORD. — When in February the insurrection was a year old, Spain had sent altogether 117,000 men to Cuba, of whom about 4000 had died, chiefly from fever. The expense of the war had been about \$50,000,000. At the end of this RECORD Gen. Weyler's total force amounted to about 130,000 men. That of the insurgents, under arms, was about 50,000. — The action of Congress in reference to the Cuban insurrection was the occasion of demonstrations against the United States in various Spanish towns during March. Riotous proceedings were indulged in by university students, and American consulates were assailed at Barcelona, Cadiz and elsewhere. The government temporarily closed the universities, and gave police and military protection to the consulates. Republican agitators appear to have played some part in the disturbances, but the popular feeling against the United States ran very high.

MINOR EUROPEAN STATES. — The policy to which the downfall, if not the assassination, of Stamboloff was a prelude, has been brought to its conclusion in the **reconciliation of Bulgaria to Russia**. The first decisive step, the baptism of the heir, Prince Boris, in the orthodox faith, was officially announced February 4. Prior to this, Prince Ferdinand had been engaged in overcoming the difficulties in the way of the infant's "conversion" — difficulties which consisted of the objections of the child's Roman Catho-

lic mother and the refusal of the Pope to sanction the proceeding. Ultimately the mother absented herself from Sofia, and the Pope's attitude was disregarded. At the ceremony the Czar, in the person of one of his generals, officiated as sponsor. Meanwhile, the Sultan, doubtless under Russian influence, granted readily the demand that Prince Ferdinand be officially recognized as ruler of Bulgaria. All the powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin promptly followed this example, and in March, amid general festivity, the princely court entered upon the regular forms of diplomatic intercourse with foreign governments. At the end of the month Prince Ferdinand visited Constantinople and received from the Sultan formal investiture as vassal prince.—In **Servia** the Skupshtina met November 27, and was notified in the royal address that a scheme for constitutional revision was contemplated. — A joint commission of fourteen for devising a plan for settling the questions in dispute between **Norway and Sweden** began its sessions at Stockholm in December.

THE ORIENT. — **Japan** reached a final adjustment of the Chinese war in November by bringing to a successful conclusion the military campaign that had been necessary to insure her occupation of Formosa. The natives of this island had refused to recognize Japanese authority, though China had formally ceded the island. On the 12th of December the Japanese forces evacuated Port Arthur, the conditions of the supplementary treaty having been fulfilled by China. The Japanese Parliament assembled December 28, with an encouraging outlook for legislation. Through agreement between the Liberal Party and the cabinet, it was understood that certain reforms in the way of freedom of speech and extension of the franchise should be conceded, and that the ministry would admit the necessity of resigning if it failed to retain the support of a majority in the Parliament. — In **China** vigorous measures of punishment for the recent outrages on Christians were carried through under the supervision of the powers. The American commission appointed to get redress for violence to missionaries at Chengtu traveled in impressive state for 1300 miles through the empire, and at the scene of the outrage saw the culprits properly punished. — The Korean capital has been the scene of disturbances that appear to reveal a conflict between Russia and Japan for the dominant influence. The reforms which the Japanese required in the administration excited considerable discontent both at court and among the people. In October the queen, who was practically at the head of the government, was murdered by a faction headed by the king's father and supported by the Japanese. On the 11th of February this faction in turn was overthrown by orders from the king, who had first taken refuge in the Russian embassy. The prime minister and other leaders were slain, and Russian influence was said to be firmly established. — Persistent rumors have circulated to the effect that China has granted Russia important railway and harbor concessions in Manchuria, but nothing authentic has come to light. — The Shah of Persia was assassinated, May 1, by a religious fanatic. Muzafer-ed-Din, son of the deceased, succeeded peaceably to the throne.

AFRICA. — This continent has furnished, during the last six months, an unusually large number of important incidents. The affairs of the Transvaal are treated under another head (p. 381). At the other end of the continent the projects of **the Italians in Abyssinia** have met with a paralyzing reverse. The advance of General Baratieri's force southward, which was under headway at the close of the last RECORD, soon produced evidence that King Menelik had not been killed by lightning, as reported, but was confronting the Italians with a great army. Early in December an advanced column of the Italians was cut to pieces by the Abyssinians at Ambalagi, and shortly afterward the fortress of Makaleh was invested. On the 23d of January the Italian garrison, after a brave defense, were obliged to evacuate the town and retreat northward. Negotiations for peace proved futile, as Menelik demanded the entire withdrawal of the Italians from Abyssinian territory, and this was refused. After desultory fighting during February, General Baratieri, on March 1, made an attack in force on Menelik's army at Adowa, and was overwhelmingly defeated, with the loss of several thousand of men and all his artillery. The remnants of the Italian force retreated to Asmara, and relinquished nearly all the positions which they had occupied in the last two years, during their gradual advance into the Abyssinian province of Tigre. General Baldissera, who before the disaster had been designated to supersede Baratieri in command, entered again into negotiations with Menelik for peace, but failed to secure satisfactory terms from that monarch. Under the impulse of the home government's efforts to supply reinforcements and of Great Britain's aid, the Italians prepared to hold some of the positions that had been on the point of abandonment. In April King Menelik, with the bulk of his forces, withdrew into the southern provinces. — Ten days after the defeat of the Italians at Adowa, it was announced that an **Anglo-Egyptian expedition up the Nile** would at once advance from Wady Halfa, the southernmost town controlled by Egypt, toward New Dongola, in the Mahdist territory. The motive of this advance was found in threatening movements of the Dervishes at several points along the frontier, especially in the neighborhood of Kassala and of Suakin. The occupation of Kassala by the Italians (see this QUARTERLY, IX, 782) had been a serious blow to the Dervishes, who, it was thought, would now be encouraged by the recent defeat of the Italians to make serious efforts to recover it. A little friction among the European powers was developed in connection with the Dongola expedition (see above, p. 381). Late in March, however, the movement of the forces, 20,000 strong, began under the command of General Kitchener. Having attained the possession of Akasheh, about one-third of the distance to Dongola, without serious opposition, further advance was suspended while fortifications, railways and other prerequisites for larger operations were made serviceable. The Egyptian financial statement for 1895 showed a surplus revenue of £1,100,000, of which £412,000 was allotted to debt conversion, £363,000 to the reserve, and the remainder was left at the disposal of the

government. Nubar Pasha resigned his position as prime minister, November 11, on account of advanced age. He was succeeded by Mustapha Fehmy Pasha. — The British expedition against Ashanti ended without bloodshed. Upon the approach of the troops to Coomassie, in the middle of January, King Prempeh announced his submission, and accepted all the British demands. He was sent to the coast as a prisoner, and his territory was all brought under British rule. An incident of the expedition was the death at sea of Prince Henry of Battenberg, of a fever contracted while accompanying the troops as a volunteer. — An uprising of the recently conquered Matabele took place at the end of March in the neighborhood of Buluwayo, and soon assumed serious dimensions. The disorganized condition of the South Africa Company's forces, due to the Jameson raid into the Transvaal, caused considerable difficulty in dealing with the rebels. Through the early part of April the murder of isolated settlers and the destruction of their property were reported from all directions. Some detachments of the native police joined the rebels, who by the end of the month had practically invested Buluwayo. British relief forces were set in motion from the Cape Colony, and troops were sent to that place from England, though the Boer government looked with much suspicion upon this proceeding. — Through a new treaty concluded January 18, Madagascar became fully a French possession, instead of a protectorate, as had been the effect of the original treaty. — The Congo State government agreed in November to pay an indemnity of 150,000 fr. for the execution of the British subject Stokes, who was irregularly condemned by the Congo officer, Major Lothaire (see last RECORD). The trial of Lothaire for murder in the Congo State resulted, however, in his acquittal.

LATIN AMERICAN STATES. — Great Britain's ultimatum to **Venezuela** in reference to the Uruan incident (see last RECORD, p. 756), was presented through the German legation at Caracas in November. No further information in respect to it has transpired, and the matter was said to have become merged in the negotiations for a general settlement in which the United States has been engaged with Great Britain since December. It was reported in March that Great Britain had consented to the proposition made by the United States, that the Uruan incident be divorced entirely from the boundary dispute and be settled independently. A revolutionary movement in Venezuela in December failed to develop much strength; but this was explained by the declaration of one of the leaders, that it was thought unpatriotic to embarrass the government while the boundary dispute with Great Britain was in a critical stage. — **Nicaragua** became the scene in February of a revolutionary uprising, based on the charge that President Zelaya was aiming at the dictatorship. Fighting was in progress throughout March and April, and Honduras sent troops into the disturbed state to aid Zelaya. By May 1 the insurgents had been driven from their last stronghold, the city of Leon, and peace was restored.

WM. A. DUNNING.